

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-58 are pending in this Application.

Claims 4, 5, 15-17, and 23-58 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3, 6-14, 18-20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,215) in view of Hirt (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,830).

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Hirt and Akashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,399).

With this response claims 1 and 12 are amended.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-14, 18-20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Hirt, and has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Hirt and Akashi.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... each of said plurality of storage means include[ing] rewritable memory of which control information for controlling an operation of said photoelectric conversion element is rewritable by a predetermined program stored in a program memory”

as stated by independent claim 1 as amended herewith. The Applicant further submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

"... a rewriting step for rewriting respective control information for controlling an operation of said photoelectric conversion element in said plurality of memories by a program stored in a program memory"

as stated by independent claim 12 as amended herewith.

The cited reference Iwasaki fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest such rewritable memories.

The cited reference Hirt fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest memories each of which stores control information for controlling a photoelectric conversion element, structure for rewriting the control information, and program memory for rewriting the control information.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Moreover, those claims that depend therefore are thought to be allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4478. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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